



TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM: III.B.

MEETING DATE: November 16, 2023

SUBJECT: Off-Campus Location Center
Southwest Tennessee Community College – Arlington High School

ITEM TYPE: Action

ACTION RECOMMENDATION: Approval

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-7-202(q)(3), the Tennessee Higher Education Commission is to review and approve or disapprove all proposals for off-campus locations at public institutions.

Per THEC Policy A1.4A Off-Campus Instruction for Community Colleges and Universities, an off-campus center is defined as a location that is geographically apart from the main campus where students can enroll and complete academic programs. Additionally, there must be a continuing administrative presence, evidenced by at least one full-time or part-time administrator housed on-site.

Southwest Tennessee Community College requests a center code for the Arlington High School located at 25475 Airline Road, Arlington, TN 38002. Currently operating as an approved site since the Fall 2021 semester, the proposed center will service the anticipated industry growth of advanced machining and mechatronics in Shelby County offering complete certificates in CNC Machine Operator Technical and Mechatronics Technology Technical. The creation of this center is a result of dual enrollment partnership growth between Southwest Tennessee Community College and Arlington High School. Southwest Tennessee Community College projects a cohort of 15 students per program per semester, anticipating a 60 student headcount by the center's fifth year. These projections are based on students taking advantage of the stackable credentials available at the proposed center in the mechatronics and Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Operator fields. Graduates of the Southwest Tennessee Community College – Arlington High School Center will have the opportunity to gain employment in entry-level, sustainable, advanced manufacturing careers.

The current facility is an existing site leased in partnership with Southwest Tennessee Community College and the Arlington Community Schools Board of Education. Arlington High School's facility includes classrooms for lectures and project work. Additional classrooms have been retrofitted to create three CNC labs on the Arlington High School Campus. Students are bussed to the Mechatronics Lab on the Macon Cove Campus of Southwest Tennessee Community College for their pneumatics, electrical, and hydraulics labs. The creation of both the CNC and Mechatronics labs ensures students are not only equipped with theoretical knowledge but also gain practical skills that directly translate to the demands of the industry. Southwest's annual budget provides financial support for the center because of an arrangement created by both parties where Arlington High School has committed to hiring faculty that Southwest Tennessee Community College can credential to teach dual enrollment courses.